

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 121055Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2417

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 0904

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: FACTORS INFLUENCING LIBYAN DECISION ON DISPOSITION
OF TEN JRA TERRORISTS

REF: STATE 189196

1. FOLLOWING FACTORS, LISTED IN DESCENDING ORDER OF PRIORITY,
WILL PROBABLY GOVERN COLONEL QADHAFI'S DECISION ON THE TEN
JRA TERRORISTS:

A) HE WILL WELCOME ANY SOLUTION WHICH WILL GET HIM OFF THE
HOOK,

B) HE WILL NOT WANT TO COMPROMISE HIS TOUGH "REVOLUTIONARY"
IMAGE BY SEEMING TO BOW TO PRESSURE.

C) HE WILL NOT WANT TO ANTAGONIZE GEORGE HABBASH'S PFLP,
A KEY ELEMENT OF THE "REJECTION FRONT" HE IS PROMOTING AGAINST
PRESIDENT SADAT. (TA PFLP REPORTEDLY HAS CLOSE LINKS WITH
THE JRA.)

D) HE WILL WANT, INsofar AS POSSIBLE, TO DEFLECT INTER-
NATIONAL CRITICISM AND TO ACT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PREVENT
LIBYA FROM BEING A SITE FOR FUTURE AFFAIRS OF THIS KIND.

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2. OBVIOUSLY, NO SOLUTION CAN SATISFY ALL OF THESE DESIDERATA, AND THIS FACES QADHAFI WITH A NO-WIN SITUATION. IN THE ABSENCE OF STRONG PRESSURE FROM THE MALAYSIAN AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENTS, QADHAFI IS LIKELY TO F
CRIFICE (D) IN FAVOR OF
(A, AND (B) AND (C) KRD LET THE TERRORISTS GO; IF STRONG PRESSURE IS BROUGHT TO BEAP FROM CONCERNED INTERNATIONAL QUARTERS,

HE MIGHT THINK TWICE.

3. ANY DEMARCHES TO THE LIBYANS, BY OURSELVES OR BY THE MALAYSIAN AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENTS SHOULD INsofar AS POSSIBLE

PRESENT QADHAFI WITH A READY MADE SOLUTION. DEPT'S REMINDER

THAT LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS WILL NOT BE IMPORTANT TO QADHAFI IS WELL TAKEN, BUT APPROACHES TO HIM SHOULD BE MADE IN TERMS OF LIBYAN SOVERIGNTY, A POINT ON WHICH THE LARG IS VERY SENSITIVE. APPROACHES SHOULD BE KEPT SECRET, AND NOT ANNOUNCED

AS PREMATURE PUBLICITY WOULD REDUCE ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

4. ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC, WE BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL TO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE ON QADHAFI ON THIS MATTER. EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO BRING HOME TO HIM THE INTERNATIONAL OPPROBRIUM HE WILL INCUR IF HE SETS THE TERRORISTS FREE IN A THIRD COUNTRY. IF WE, THE JAPANESE, AND THE MALAYSIANS TREAT QADHAFI AS AN OUTCAST, HE IS MORE LIKELY TO BEHAVEAS ONE THAN IF WE PROCEED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT HE WANTS TO ACT RESPONSIBILY.
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